

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/657,275

Examiner

F. Ryan Zeender

Applicant(s)

FLORANCE ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/2/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 10-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, second to last line, "displaying, to the user, information" was changed to –displaying, to the user on a screen, information--.

In claim 8, second to last line, "displaying the properties" was changed to –displaying, on a screen, the properties--.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art, Roy et al. (US 5,966,135), discloses a method for disseminating information contained in the real estate database (see column 11, lines 20-26) comprising: receiving from a user a series of points on a map that define a polygonal search area (see column 3, lines 46-50); searching the real estate database for properties within the polygonal search area that meet user map inputs (see column 11, lines 20-26; and displaying, to the user, information about the properties within the polygonal search area that meet the use inputs (see column 11, lines 20-26).

Re claim 1: Roy et al lack the teaching of bounding a drawn area in a box; subdividing the box into latitude/longitude sub-boxes; identifying inside, outside, and

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intersecting sub-boxes; subdividing intersecting sub-boxes into further latitude/longitude sub-boxes and identifying the further sub-boxes as one of inside, outside, and intersecting, up to predefined number of iterations, resulting in identified inside sub-boxes and remaining intersecting sub-boxes.

The limitations lacking in the prior art, in combination with the other limitations clearly claimed in the application, are novel and unobvious.

Re claim 8: Roy et al lack the teaching of bounding a drawn area in a box; converting pixels into latitude and longitude coordinates; identifying pixels as one of inside, outside, and intersecting; subdividing the intersecting pixels into sub-pixels and identifying the sub-pixels as one of inside, outside, and intersecting, up to a predefined number of iterations, resulting in one or more of identified inside pixels, identified inside sub-pixels, and remaining intersecting sub-pixels.

The limitations lacking in the prior art, in combination with the other limitations clearly claimed in the application, are novel and unobvious.

The prior art, WO 2004/042494, discloses data management system for facilitating real estate transactions.

Re claim 1, WO 2004/042494 lacks the teaching of bounding a drawn area in a box; subdividing the box into latitude/longitude sub-boxes; identifying inside, outside, and intersecting sub-boxes; subdividing intersecting sub-boxes into further latitude/longitude sub-boxes and identifying the further sub-boxes as one of inside,

outside, and intersecting, up to predefined number of iterations, resulting in identified inside sub-boxes and remaining intersecting sub-boxes.

The limitations lacking in the prior art, in combination with the other limitations clearly claimed in the application, are novel and unobvious.

Re claim 8: WO 2004/042494 lacks the teaching of bounding a drawn area in a box; converting pixels into latitude and longitude coordinates; identifying pixels as one of inside, outside, and intersecting; subdividing the intersecting pixels into sub-pixels and identifying the sub-pixels as one of inside, outside, and intersecting, up to a predefined number of iterations, resulting in one or more of identified inside pixels, identified inside sub-pixels, and remaining intersecting sub-pixels.

The limitations lacking in the prior art, in combination with the other limitations clearly claimed in the application, are novel and unobvious.

The prior art document titled, "Department of Environmental Quality" (<http://environmentalresponse.utah.gov/map/toobar.htm>), teaches a zoom in and zoom out feature for use with maps.

The document titled, "Department of Environmental Quality" lacks the teaching of bounding a drawn area in a box; subdividing the box into latitude/longitude sub-boxes; identifying inside, outside, and intersecting sub-boxes; subdividing intersecting sub-boxes into further latitude/longitude sub-boxes and identifying the further sub-boxes as one of inside, outside, and intersecting, up to predefined number of iterations, resulting in identified inside sub-boxes and remaining intersecting sub-boxes.

The limitations lacking in the prior art, in combination with the other limitations clearly claimed in the application, are novel and unobvious.

Re claim 8: The document titled, "Department of Environmental Quality" lacks the teaching of bounding a drawn area in a box; converting pixels into latitude and longitude coordinates; identifying pixels as one of inside, outside, and intersecting; subdividing the intersecting pixels into sub-pixels and identifying the sub-pixels as one of inside, outside, and intersecting, up to a predefined number of iterations, resulting in one or more of identified inside pixels, identified inside sub-pixels, and remaining intersecting sub-pixels.

The limitations lacking in the prior art, in combination with the other limitations clearly claimed in the application, are novel and unobvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Ryan Zeender whose telephone number is (571) 272-6790. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

F. Zeender  
Saturday, August 05, 2006

 8/5/06  
F. RYAN ZEENDER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER